

**Second Meeting of States Parties
to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
13 September 2011**

Statement by Mr. Gediminas VARVUOLIS,

**Director of Transatlantic Cooperation and Security Policy Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania**

Mr. President,

At the outset allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as President and express Lithuania's appreciation to the Government of Lebanon for organizing this event. I would like to assure you of the Lithuanian delegation full support and cooperation during this meeting.

Lithuania aligns itself with the statement made/to be made later today by the European Union and would like to present some additional remarks.

Lithuania ratified the Convention on 24 March 2011 becoming the 55th State Party to the convention and is glad to participate in the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention for the first time. On 30 March 2011 Lithuania also submitted a voluntary transparency report under the article 7 of the convention. Lithuania is a staunch supporter of universalization of the Convention and we need to put more efforts to keep and – indeed – increase the momentum of making this important treaty universal. The importance and urgency of our efforts is particularly obvious here in Lebanon – a country that was and still remains severely affected by the use of cluster munitions.

We are encouraged to hear that countries have already started to implement their commitments under the Convention on Cluster Munitions by clearing contaminated areas, destroying stockpiles, establishing victim assistance programmes and providing assistance to other States Parties. Lithuania also acknowledges an important work done by the Intersessional Meeting, which took place in Geneva this June. We are glad that the proposed mechanism of

Implementation Architecture and Intersessional Work closely follows a successful example of the Mine Ban Treaty. As to organization of work further linkages between the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Mine Ban Treaty should be explored in order to implement the convention in a more effective and efficient way.

Mr. President,

Lithuania is committed to universalization and full implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions; however we recognize that some states, including the largest producers and users of Cluster Munitions, are not yet ready to join the Convention. For this reason and having in mind the most urgent humanitarian concerns as well as a need to make a real impact on the ground, we are convinced that reaching an agreement and concluding a new additional protocol to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons is also important as a further step in the direction of the progressive restriction in the use of cluster munitions having a goal of its' total prohibition in the future.

Finally, I would like to assure you of Lithuania's continued support and contribution in promoting the principles of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and in setting highest standards addressing persistent humanitarian threats.

Thank you, Mr. President.